

Introduced by Senators Romero and Maldonado

July 5, 2005

Senate Resolution No. 18—Relative to the Baby Bill of Rights.

1 WHEREAS, There is hereby recognized the Baby Bill of
2 Rights; and
3 WHEREAS, Fulfillment of these rights requires a commitment
4 of adults on behalf of children; and
5 WHEREAS, It is established that babies' brains grow most
6 rapidly and are the most vulnerable during the first months and
7 years of life, and that babies are fully dependent on their
8 caregivers for all aspects of nourishment and security: their rights
9 arise from this inherent dependency. As adults, we believe that to
10 secure these rights is the responsibility of parents, family,
11 community, business, and elected representatives of our youngest
12 citizens; now, therefore, be it
13 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, As persons
14 charged with and dedicated to upholding the rights of all babies,
15 we hereby pledge:
16 (a) To make sense of our own lives so that we can recognize,
17 understand, and respond to our babies' signals and help them
18 form secure attachments;
19 (b) To protect their health and well-being by providing
20 nutritious food, consistent and safe shelter, and protective
21 clothing;
22 (c) To protect them from exposure to harmful diseases and
23 substances, potential injury, and all violence;
24 (d) To create and maintain nurturing environments and
25 experiences that promote physical, cognitive, social, and
26 emotional stability and growth;

- 1 (e) To teach and model for them, as they grow, how to discern
2 right from wrong, how to make meaningful choices, and to obey
3 the law;
- 4 (f) To teach them of their duty to their coinhabitants of the
5 earth and their responsibility to protect the earth for future
6 generations;
- 7 (g) To make it the first priority of a parent or parents to
8 establish and maintain a healthy and stable family to ensure the
9 baby's development for today, tomorrow, and the future;
- 10 (h) To establish daily family rituals of time together for meals,
11 play, conversation, and reflection;
- 12 (i) To hold them close and tell them they are loved;
- 13 (j) To walk with them, show them, and tell them about the
14 world beyond;
- 15 (k) To read or engage in preliteracy activities to model and
16 prepare them for lifelong learning;
- 17 (l) To expect that community services for children are
18 individualized, coordinated, relationship-based, culturally
19 responsive, and family-centered;
- 20 (m) To expect and maintain the highest standards for all
21 professionals and paraprofessionals whose occupations are
22 child-related; and
- 23 (n) To expect local, state, and federal officials to instill models
24 of public generosity and to acknowledge excellence in group
25 efforts to uphold this Baby Bill of Rights; and be it further
26 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Senate transmit copies of
27 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.